



Medical School Hotline

Student Profile: Class of 2005 John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)

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The School of Medicine's Admissions Committee just completed its final selection of 62 first year students for the 35th entering class. The first day of class was August 1, 2001. To welcome the students, a White Coat Ceremony was conducted in which graduates of the Class of 1980 presented white coats to each student, members of the Hawaii Medical Association gave each student a stethoscope, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation donated the book, "On Doctoring" to all students.

There were 1,175 applicants for this freshman class. Of this number, 197 were residents of the State of Hawaii and 978 were out-of-state applicants. Residency status for admission purposes is determined by 5 factors (legal residency, birthplace, parents' residence, high school and college or professional school attended) and the applicant must have a minimum of three of the five to be considered a resident of Hawaii. Candidates for interviews are selected on the basis of academic scores, honor awards during the undergraduate years, extra-curricular activities and employment in human services. Of the total number of applicants, 226 qualified to be interviewed by two interviewers and the Chair of the Admissions Committee. The final selection included 56 in-state and 6 out-of-state applicants.

The Admissions Committee met 21 times between September, 2000, and May, 2001 to rate the applicants. The eleven-member committee consisted of 6 men and 5 women. There were eight clinicians, one basic scientist and two social scientists. The Committee members represented the major ethnic groups in Hawaii as well as varied age levels. The final rating for each applicant was by secret ballot and submitted to the registrar who averaged the scores that were ranked at the conclusion.

Documents examined by the Admissions Committee were: Grade Point Averages (GPA), Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), interviewers reports, applicant's essays on the topics "Why Medi-

cine?" and "Why (the interest in) the John A. Burns School of Medicine?", letters of recommendations, transcripts of undergraduate courses, and a biographical sketch that included experiences in providing human services. The final median scores of the entering class are: Cumulative GPA, 3.46; Science GPA, 3.55; MCAT total, 30; Verbal Reasoning, 9; Physical Sciences, 10; Writing Sample, P; and, Biological Sciences, 10.

JABSOM is proud that it is the world's most ethnically diverse school. This year's class includes: 15 Japanese, 14 Chinese, 7 Filipino, 7 Other Asians, 6 Hawaiians, 5 Caucasians, 3 Koreans, 2 Vietnamese, 1 Mexican-American/Hispanic, and 1 Other Pacific Islander.

Nineteen are graduates of the University of Hawaii at Manoa; 2 from Hawaii Pacific University; 1 from Chaminade University, Honolulu, and 1 from University of Hawaii—Hilo. Thirty-nine obtained their undergraduate degrees from mainland colleges that include University of California—San Diego, Berkeley and Los Angeles, Irvine, Riverside, Davis, and Santa Barbara; University of Pennsylvania; University of Washington-Seattle; Columbia University, New York; Stanford University; Duke University; Gonzaga University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Northwestern University; Princeton University; Seattle University; St. Louis University; University of Denver; University of Idaho; University of Portland; and University of Southern California.

All students have Baccalaureate degrees and 5 have Masters degrees. Their college majors include: 21 in Biology, 2 in each of the following—Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biology-Pharmacology, Pre-Medicine, Psychology, and one (1) in the following fields—Accounting, Biochemistry/Economics, Biochemistry/Neuroscience, Bioengineering, Biology/combined with Dance, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Japanese, Liberal Studies, Genetics, Physiology, Public Health, and, Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Cell & Molecular Biology, Public Health, Ecology & Evolution Biology, English-Landscape Architect, Human Biology, Interdisciplinary Studies, Life Science/Psychology, Mathematics, Neuro Science, Neurobiology-Physiology-Behavior-Neuroscience, Nutrition, Oceanography, Physiology, Psychobiology, Science Technology and Socio/Biological Science, and Zoology.

Students were chosen from hundreds of their peers and identified as those with the best potentials of becoming competent, culturally sensitive physicians. They are on an exciting journey that will change their own lives and others forever. They will undoubtedly hear — throughout their journey of becoming physicians — the advice of Dr. Arnold P. Gold, sponsor of the White Coat Ceremony, who said, "... work hard, care, and never forget human suffering."

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